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## This Week in Wabash

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Hello, Wabash,

Happy Monday. I hope your week has gotten off to a great start. I almost hesitate to type this because I think it's going to jinx it, but I think spring might actually be here. I think we're through the part of the year which I call "fake spring" where it appears to be spring but just as you get comfortable, here comes some more snow and ice. The breeze is flowing in now and it feels quite pleasant. I hope I'm not proven wrong.

Anyway, this week I hope you'll allow me a small indulgence of bragging on myself a bit.

On Thursday, March 31, I found out I won two awards at the Indiana Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) 2021 Best in Indiana Journalism Contest.

One was in the Personality Profile category.

# Congratulations!

You or a member of your team has won an award in SPJ Indiana's 2021 "Best in Indiana Journalism" Contest. The winning entry is:

Division: **PRINT AND DIGITAL DIVISION**

Category: **Personality Profile (Newspapers circulation below 30,000)**

Entrant(s): **Rob Burgess**

Title: **Wabash Plain Dealer - Rob Burgess - Personality Profile entry**

Outlet: **Wabash Plain Dealer**

The other was in the Education Reporting category.

# Congratulations!

You or a member of your team has won an award in SPJ Indiana's 2021 "Best in Indiana Journalism" Contest. The winning entry is:

Division: **PRINT AND DIGITAL DIVISION**

Category: **Education Reporting (Publication circulation below 30,000)**

Entrant(s): **Rob Burgess**

Title: **Wabash Plain Dealer - Rob Burgess - Education Reporting entry**

Outlet: **Wabash Plain Dealer**

I'm looking forward to finding out which places I won at the awards ceremony Friday, April 22.

This is the [third year in a row](#) I have been honored in this particular contest for work I've done as editor of the Plain Dealer.

However, just like with the four Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) Better Newspaper Contest awards [I won last year](#), I never take any of it for granted. I'm extremely honored.

While I wait to find out which places I won, please take time to check out my winning stories if you have a few minutes.

For the Personality Profile entry, I submitted [my story about 2021 Best of Wabash](#)

## County winner Teizo Fox.

And for the Education Reporting category, I submitted five stories combined as one entry.

Two of them were about [the local Literacy for Companionship program, which pairs emerging readers with dogs and cats in need of a home.](#)

The third story in this entry was about Sharp Creek Elementary School teacher Amber Bretzman [teaching 9/11 to her fifth-graders 20 years later.](#)

For this entry, I also included [the acrostic poems](#) her students wrote as a part of the assignment.

I also included the Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 12, 2001 front pages of the Plain Dealer, which were published with the help of Wabash Carnegie Public Library executive director Ware Wimberly who dug them out of the archives.





5/6

Best,  
Rob



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